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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Wednesday - 21 December 1955

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1. Messrs. Houston and Paul met with Roger Jones of the Bureau of the Budget to discuss legislative problems. The following three specific matters were discussed:

a. Joint Committee. Mr. Jones shares our opinion that a Joint Committee on Intelligence would be an undesirable thing. He hopes that the matter will not become a subject of discussion in the Planning Board of the NSC, and will cooperate in trying to avoid this step if possible. He agrees, however, that the matter should be brought to the attention of the President. We described the Director's discussion with Carl Vinson on this subject, and Jones volunteered the opinion that he thought Carl Hayden on the Senate side could be a most effective ally in blocking it;

b. Executive Pay Bill. Jones informed us that this matter was entirely in the hands of Philip Young insofar as the executive branch was concerned, and he was unable to offer any advice except to keep in touch with Mr. Young on the matter. He feels that there will probably be strong pressure to put this bill through in the coming session, although there apparently is going to be some wrangling between the House and the Senate as to the form of the bill. He feels that the Democrats may want to wait until they know whether or not the President will run again before they get into action on it. If the President decides not to run, he feels that the Democrats will press for a very liberal Executive Pay bill;

c. CIA Legislation. Jones had not had an opportunity to read our draft legislation, which had been formally submitted to him the day before. He requested that before we make any further approaches to Mr. Winslow or Mr. Young, we allow him an opportunity to read the proposed legislation and to advise us on next steps. His offhand opinion was that the death benefits section would never get through. (cc-DDIS)

2. On the basis of a discussion between Paul and Bob Smart of the Armed Services Committee staff the Director was advised not to make any specific suggestions to Mr. Vinson on the membership of the CIA subcommittee. On the general problem of the Joint Committee, Smart elaborated on Mr. Vinson's previous views that the matter could be bottled up in the House. He feels that Mr. Vinson will probably work on this matter through Speaker Rayburn and Judge Smith of the Rules Committee, both of whom he feels will be cooperative.

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